

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as follows:

-- ~~The present invention provides a~~ A cartridge device (20) comprising having a receiving portion (40) for receiving a blood sample and a jack portion (48) for receiving a plug (22); a stirring device (49) for circulating ~~said~~ the blood sample within ~~said~~ the receiving portion (40); and an electrode holder (44) having at least one incorporated electrode wire pair (16; 24; 25; 26); wherein the electrode holder (44) is attachable to the cell (9) such that one end (16a; 24a; 25a; 26a) of the at least one electrode wire pair (16; 24; 25; 26) forms a sensor unit (17a; 17b; 17c; 17d) for measuring the electrical impedance between the two electrode wires of the at least one electrode wire pair (16; 24; 25; 26) within the blood sample and that the opposite end (16b; 24b; 25b; 26b) of the at least one electrode wire pair (16; 24; 25; 26) forms a plug portion (21a; 21b; 21c; 21d) being connectable directly to the plug (22) for an electrical connection of the sensor unit (17a; 17b; 17c; 17d) to an analyser. --

Please amend the paragraph on page 17, lines 18-28, beginning with the phrase "Appropriate means are placed under the receptacle", with the following text:

-- Appropriate means are placed under the receptacle that induce a stirring motion of the stir bar 19. The preferred means for stirring the sample is the use of electromagnets that are alternately turned on and off and therefore induce a rotation of the stir bar 19. The stir bar 19 can comprise a polytetrafluoroethylene (e.g., Teflon)

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coated stir bar, steel or siliconized steel. Siliconized stainless steel is the preferred material, as it is less expensive than polytetrafluoroethylene (e.g., Teflon) coated stir bars. Non-coated stir bars can alter the platelet activation due to the contact and adhesion of platelets to the thrombogenic steel material. Also permanent magnets that are rotated by adequate means or other means for inducing rotation of the sample (such as ultrasound, orbital movements of the cup) can be applied as obvious to a person skilled in the art. --